

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as shown below.

1. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus comprising:

a storage device that stores scene information including, at least, data for at least one representative frame extracted from a scene, data for an interval of the scene, and data for a significance level of the scene of each of a plurality of scenes included in a moving picture to be played back, wherein each of the plurality of scenes is mutually disjoint and is managed with no relationship with the other scenes so as to have the single significance level, a single unique identification and the single unique representative frame;

a display device that displays ~~an externally designated significance level by~~ a user operation for designating a significance level to be subjected to playback of the scenes stored in the storage device, and extracts, ~~on the basis of~~ in accordance with the ~~externally designated significance level by the user operation~~ displayed, images of the representative frames of the ~~plurality of scenes, with each extracted image being extracted from among a scene of the plurality of~~ stored scenes having a significance level equal to or higher than the ~~externally designated~~ significance level ~~[[by]]~~ corresponding to the displayed user operation ~~from the storage device, in order to~~ and displays concurrently ~~display~~ the extracted images chronologically;

a selection device that receives a selection of one of the concurrently-displayed images of the representative frames on the basis of an external designation; and

a playback control device that controls playback of the scenes corresponding to the images of the representative frames, the playback control device controlling playback so as to play back the scenes corresponding to the selected images of the representative frames when the selection device receives the selection, and change a current scene to be currently played back, to a temporally preceding or subsequent scene having the significance level the same as the ~~externally designated~~ significance level ~~[[by]]~~ corresponding to the user operation displayed by the display device and being most temporally close to the current scene if the significance level of the current scene is different from the externally designated significance level ~~[[by]]~~ corresponding to the user operation displayed by the display device.

2. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the display device chronologically displays a specified number of the images of the representative frames of the plurality of scenes concurrently.

3. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the display device refers to the scene information in the storage device ~~when a~~ in accordance with the significance level is ~~externally designated by a~~ corresponding to the displayed user operation, and chronologically displays images of the representative frames of the scenes having significance levels equal to or higher than the ~~externally designated~~ significance level ~~[[by]]~~ corresponding to the displayed user operation.

4. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the images of the representative frames included reduced images.

5. (Previously presented) An image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the display device displays the images of the representative frames with data indicative of the significance level corresponding to the representative frames being added to the images of the representative frames.

6. (Previously Presented) An image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the display device displays the scene played back by the playback control device together with the images of the representative frames of the scenes, and displays data for discriminating representative frames corresponding to the scene being currently played back from the other representative frames.

7. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the display device changes a display condition in the images of the representative frames of the scenes that are chronologically displayed based on an external instruction.

8. (Previously Presented) An image processing apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the display device changes a display condition in the images of the representative frames of the scenes that are chronologically displayed, synchronizing with the images being played back by the playback control device.

9. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the display device changes a display condition and selects whether change of the display condition is synchronized with the images being played back by the playback device, based on an external instruction.

10. (Previously Presented) An image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the playback device plays back one of the scenes corresponding to one of the images of the representative frames of the scenes, which is externally designated among the images of the representative frames of the scenes displayed by the display control device.

11. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus comprising:  
a storage device that stores scene information including, at least, data for at least one representative frame extracted from a scene, and data for a significance level of the scene of each of a plurality of scenes included in a moving picture to be played back, wherein each of the plurality of scenes is mutually disjoint and is managed with no relationship with the other scenes so as to have the single significance level, a single unique identification and the single unique representative frame;

a display control device that controls display so as to display ~~an externally designated significance level by~~ a user operation for designating significance level to be subjected to playback of the scenes stored in the storage device, and extract, ~~on the basis of~~ in accordance with the ~~externally designated significance level by~~ the user operation displayed, images of the representative frames of the ~~plurality of scenes; with each~~

~~extracted image being extracted~~ from among a scene of the plurality of stored scenes having a significance level greater than or equal to the ~~externally designated~~ significance level ~~[[by]]~~ corresponding to the user displayed operation ~~from the storage device, in order to~~ and concurrently display the extracted images chronologically; and

a selection device that receives a selection of one of the concurrently-displayed representative frames on the basis of an external designation, wherein the display control device controls to play back the scenes corresponding to the selected images of the representative frames when the selection device receives the selection, and change a current scene to be currently played back, to a temporally preceding or subsequent scene having the significance level the same as the ~~externally designated~~ significance level ~~[[by]]~~ corresponding to the user operation displayed by the display control device and being most temporally close to the current scene if the significance level of the current scene is different from the ~~externally designated~~ significance level ~~[[by]]~~ corresponding to the user operation displayed by the display control device.

12. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the display control device refers to the scene information in the storage device ~~when a significance level is externally designated by a~~ in accordance with the displayed user operation, and chronologically displays images of the representative frames of the scenes having significance levels equal to or higher than the externally designated significance level ~~[[by]]~~ corresponding to the displayed user operation.

13. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the images of the representative frames included reduced images.

14. (Previously Presented) An image processing apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the display control device displays the images of the representative frames with data indicative of the significance level corresponding to the representative frames being added to the images of the representative frames.

15. (Previously Presented) An image processing apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the display control device changes a display condition in the images of the representative frames of the scenes that are chronologically displayed based on an external instruction.

16. (Currently Amended) An image processing method comprising:  
storing, in a storage device, scene information including, at least, data for at least one representative frame extracted from a scene, data for an interval of the scene and data for a significance level of each of a plurality of scenes included in a moving picture to be played back, wherein each of the plurality of scenes is mutually disjoint and is managed with no relationship with the other scenes so as to have the single scene significance level, a single unique identification and the single unique representative frame;  
receiving an external designation of a significance level;  
displaying ~~an externally designated significance level by~~ a user operation  
for designating a significance level to be subjected to playback of the scenes stored in the

~~storage device, and extracting, on the basis of~~ in accordance with the ~~external designation~~  
~~of the significance level by the user operation~~ displayed, images of the representative  
frames of the plurality of scenes, with each extracted image being extracted from among a  
~~scene of~~ the plurality of scenes having a significance level equal to or higher than the  
~~externally designated~~ significance level ~~[[by]]~~ corresponding to the displayed user  
operation ~~in order to~~ and concurrently ~~display~~ displaying the extracted images, the  
concurrently-displayed images being displayed chronologically;

receiving a selection of one of the concurrently-displayed images of the  
representative frames on the basis of an external designation; and

controlling playback of the scenes corresponding to the images of the  
representative frames, the playback controlling step being arranged to play back the scenes  
corresponding to the selected images of the representative frames when the selection  
receiving step receives the selection, and change a current scene to be currently played  
back, to a temporally preceding or subsequent scene having the significance level the same  
as the ~~externally designated~~ significance level ~~[[by]]~~ corresponding to the user  
operation displayed in the display step and being most temporally close to the current scene  
if the significance level of the current scene is different from the ~~externally designated~~  
significance level ~~[[by]]~~ corresponding to the user operation displayed in the display step.

17. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to claim 16,  
wherein the display step chronologically displays a specified number of the images of the  
representative frames of the plurality of scenes concurrently.

18. (Original) An image processing method according to claim 16, wherein the images of the representative frames included reduced images.

19. (Previously presented) An image processing method according to claim 16, wherein the display step displays the images of the representative frames with data indicative of the significance level corresponding to the representative frames being added to the images of the representative frames.

20. (Previously Presented) An image processing method according to claim 16, wherein the display step displays the scene played back in the playback control step together with the images of the representative frames of the scenes, and displays data for discriminating representative frames corresponding to the scene being currently played back from the other representative frames.

21. (Original) An image processing method according to claim 16, wherein the display step changes a display condition in the images of the representative frames of the scenes that are chronologically displayed based on an external instruction.

22. (Previously Presented) An image processing method according to claim 20, wherein the display step changes a display condition in the images of the representative frames of the scenes that are chronologically displayed, synchronizing with the images being played back in the playback control step.



23. (Previously Presented) An image processing method according to claim 20, wherein the display step changes a display condition and selects whether changes of the display condition is synchronized with the images being played back in the playback control step, based on an external instruction.

24. (Previously Presented) An image processing method according to claim 16, wherein the playback control step plays back one of the scenes corresponding to one of the images of the representative frames of the scenes, which is externally designated among the images of the representative frames of the scenes displayed in the display step.

25. (Currently Amended) An image processing method comprising:  
storing, in a storage device, scene information including, at least, data for at least one representative frame extracted from a scene and data for a significance level of the scene of each of a plurality of scenes included in a moving picture to be played back, wherein each of the plurality of scenes is mutually disjoint and is managed with no relationship with the other scenes so as to have the single significance level identification, a single unique identification and the single unique representative frame;

controlling display so as to display ~~an externally designated significance level~~ by a user operation for designating a significance level to be subjected to playback of the scenes stored in the storage device, and extract, ~~on the basis of~~ in accordance with the ~~externally designated significance level~~ by the user operation displayed, images of the representative frames of the plurality of scenes, ~~with each extracted image being extracted from among a scene of the plurality of stored~~ scenes having a significance level equal to or

higher than the ~~externally designated~~ significance level ~~[[by]]~~ corresponding to the displayed user operation ~~from the storage device~~, to concurrently display the extracted images, the concurrently-displayed images being displayed chronologically; and

receiving a selection of one of the concurrently-displayed images of the representative frames on the basis of an external designation,

wherein the display control step is arranged to play back the scenes corresponding to the selected images of the representative frames when the selection device receives the selection, and change a current scene to be currently played back, to a temporally preceding or subsequent scene having the significance level the same as the ~~externally designated~~ significance level ~~[[by]]~~ corresponding to the user operation displayed by the display control device and being most temporally close to the current scene if the significance level of the current scene is different from the ~~externally designated~~ significance level ~~[[by]]~~ corresponding to the user operation displayed by the display control step.

26. (Currently Amended) An image processing method according to claim 25, wherein the display control step refers to the scene information in the storage device ~~when a~~ in accordance with significance level ~~is externally designated by a~~ corresponding to the displayed user operation, and chronologically displays images of the representative frames of the scenes having significance levels equal to or higher than the externally designated significance level ~~[[by]]~~ corresponding to the displayed user operation.

27. (Original) An image processing method according to claim 25, wherein the images of the representative frames included reduced images.

28. (Previously Presented) An image processing method according to claim 25, wherein the display control step displays the images of the representative frames with data indicative of the significance level corresponding to the representative frames being added to the images of the representative frames.

29. (Previously Presented) An image processing method according to claim 25, wherein the display control step changes a display condition in the images of the representative frames of the scenes that are chronologically displayed based on an external instruction.

30. (Currently Amended) A computer readable storage medium that stores image processing program codes for playing back a moving picture, the computer readable storage medium storing:

a code for storing, in a storage device, scene information including, at least, data for at least one representative frame extracted from a scene, data for an interval of the scene and data for a significance level of the scene of each of a plurality of scenes included in a moving picture to be played back, wherein each of the plurality of scenes is mutually disjoint and is managed with no relationship with the other scenes so as to have the single significance level, a single unique identification and the single unique representative frame;

a code for displaying ~~an externally designated significance level~~ by a user operation for designating a significance level to be subjected to playback of the scenes stored in the storage device, and extracting, ~~on the basis of~~ in accordance with ~~an externally designated significance level~~ by the user operation displayed, images of the representative frames of ~~plurality of the scenes, with each extracted image being extracted from among a scene of the plurality of~~ stored scenes having a significance level equal to or higher than the ~~externally designated~~ significance level ~~[[by]]~~ corresponding to the displayed user operation ~~from the storage device, in order to~~ and concurrently ~~display~~ displaying the extracted images, the concurrently-displayed images being displayed chronologically;

a code for receipt of a selection of one of the concurrently-displayed images of the representative frames on the basis of an external designation; and

a code for controlling playback of the scenes corresponding to the images of the representative frames, the playback controlling step being arranged to play back the scenes corresponding to the selected images of the representative frames when the selection receiving step receives the selection, and change a current scene to be currently played back, to a temporally preceding or subsequent scene having the significance level the same as the ~~externally designated~~ significance level ~~[[by]]~~ corresponding to the user operation displayed in the display step and being most temporally close to the current scene if the significance level of the current scene is different from the ~~externally designated~~ significance level ~~[[by]]~~ corresponding to the user operation displayed in the display.

31. (Currently Amended) A computer readable storage medium that stores image processing program codes for playing back a moving picture, the computer readable storage medium storing:

a code for storing, in a storage device, scene information including, at least, data for at least one representative frame extracted from a scene and data for a significance level of the scene of each of a plurality of scenes included in a moving picture to be played back, wherein each of the plurality of scenes is mutually disjoint and is managed with no relationship with the other scenes so as to have the single unique significance level, a single unique identification and the single representative frame;

a code for controlling display so as to display ~~an externally designated significance level~~ by a user operation for designating a significance level to be subjected to playback of the scenes stored in the storage device, and extract, on the basis of in accordance with the externally designated significance level by the user operation displayed, images of the representative frames of the ~~plurality of scenes, with each extracted image being extracted~~ from among a scene of the plurality of scenes having a significance level equal to or higher than the ~~externally designated~~ significance level ~~[[by]]~~ corresponding to the user operation, in order to and concurrently display the extracted images, the concurrently-displayed images being displayed chronologically; and

a code for receipt of a selection of one of the concurrently-displayed images of the representative frames on the basis of an external designation,

wherein the display control step is arranged to play back the scenes corresponding to the selected images of the representative frames when the selection device receives the selection, and change a current scene to be currently played back, to a

temporally preceding or subsequent scene having the significance level the same as the ~~externally designated~~ significance level ~~[[by]]~~ corresponding to the user operation displayed by the display control device and being most temporally close to the current scene if the significance level of the current scene is different from the externally designated significance level ~~[[by]]~~ corresponding to the user operation displayed by the display control step.